

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

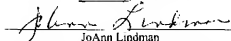
Application No.: 10/039,214 Confirmation No.: 2008  
Applicant : W. Martin Belef et al.  
Filed : January 4, 2002  
TC/A.U. : 3731  
Examiner : Truong, Kevin Thao  
Title : RAPID EXCHANGE SHEATH FOR DEPLOYMENT OF  
MEDICAL DEVICES AND METHODS OF USE  
Docket No. : 1001.1424101  
Customer No. : 28075

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, on this 16 day of February, 2006.

By \_\_\_\_\_

  
JoAnn Lindman

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed September 27, 2005 and the Advisory Action mailed December 22, 2005. This Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination. Please consider this a Petition for Extension of Time for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers. Please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please consider the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the **Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 14 of this paper.